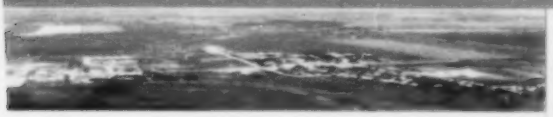
LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES DIVISION



Municipal Services Branch

Village of Hussar
Dissolution Study

March 2004

Alberta
MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

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VILLAGE OF HUSSAR DISSOLUTION STUDY

Introduction

Section 130 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA) requires that a dissolution study be done if the Minister receives a request for a study from a municipal council. In August 2003, the Minister of Municipal Affairs (Minister) received a request from the Village of Hussar (village) asking for a dissolution study.

What is dissolution?

Dissolution is the legal process of dissolving one municipal corporation and joining it with another municipal corporation.

The village is a municipal corporation providing local governance and municipal services to the residents. If the village dissolves, it would join with the municipal corporation of Wheatland County (county). The county would then provide local governance and municipal services to the residents of Hussar.

What is a dissolution study?

A dissolution study is a written report that in part:

- describes the current situation in the village;
- describes current information on municipal services in the village and what change may occur if the village joins the county; and
- provides a comparison of village and county taxes for 2003.

Information for the study is gathered from:

- village council and administration;
- county council and administration; and
- public and ministry records.

Please note: A dissolution study is not an audit or an inquiry into the operation of the village.

What happens when the study is completed?

Residents receive the following:

- a copy of the study;
- notice of the date, time and location of a public meeting when Municipal Affairs will present the study and answer the questions of residents; and
- notice of "Vote on a Bylaw or Question" giving the time, date and location of the vote on the question of dissolution.

The current situation in Hussar

Village Population

The village's declared population is currently 181, which is an increase of 15.3 percent since 1999.

Village Property Tax Assessment Base

The value of the village's property assessment base (residential and non-residential) declined by approximately $620,000 or 8 percent between 1999 and 2003. All of the loss can be attributed to the significant decrease in non-residential assessment since 1999.

Residential assessment has increased by approximately $1.6 million between 1999 and 2003. This increase translated into a 48 percent increase in the total amount of residential assessment in Hussar.

Non-residential assessment has fallen by approximately $2.1 million between 1999 and 2003. Most of this loss can be attributed to the de-licensing and removal of grain elevators. The loss translated into a 57 percent reduction in the total amount of non-residential assessment in Hussar.

The loss of non-residential assessment contributed to a significant shift in the ratio of residential to non-residential assessment. In 1999, non-residential property assessment picked up 57 percent of the municipal property tax levy and residential property assessment picked up 43 percent. By 2003, residential property assessment was picking up 70 percent, while non-residential property assessment declined to 30 percent of the municipal property tax levy.
This means that the residential property assessment has been paying an increasingly larger portion of the municipal property tax levy since 1999. This does

not mean that non-residential is not picking up its share of the property tax levy just that there are fewer non-residential properties contributing to the overall property tax assessment base. The situation was due primarily to a loss of non-residential property assessment that was not within the village's control.

Village Municipal Property Tax Levy

The municipal property tax levy is the net amount of money required from the property assessment base to support the village's operations and does not include requisitions for education or the seniors' foundation.

The tax levy does include the village cost for Wheatland and District Emergency Medical Services Association and the Hussar Rural Fire Association. Between 1999 and 2003, the municipal property tax levy decreased from $89,467 to $85,082.

Village Finances

The village is managing financially. As of December 31, 2003, the village had financial assets totalling $360,702 and liabilities in the amount of $156,260. The village remained in a positive financial position at the end of 2003.

Services and community issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Council representation	The village has a three member council that is elected at large. This means that individual councillors represent all the village residents and not the residents of a particular area. The village council selects the mayor at its annual organizational meeting. The first duty of village councillors prescribed in section 135 of the Municipal Government Act is: To consider the welfare and interests of the municipality as a whole and to bring to council's attention anything that would promote the welfare or interests of the municipality.	The county has a seven member council that is elected by electoral division. This means that individual councillors represent county residents within their specific electoral division. The county council selects the reeve at its annual organizational meeting. Hussar would be a part of Division 7, and would be represented by the councillor for Division 7. The first duty of county councillors prescribed in section 135 of the Municipal Government Act is: To consider the welfare and interests of the municipality as a whole and to bring to council's attention anything that would promote the welfare or interests of the municipality.
Council meetings	Regular council meetings are held on the second Thursday of every month and are held at the village office at 7 p.m.	Regular council meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month. Municipal committee meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month. Both meetings commence at 9 a.m. at the county office.
Administration	The village has two staff members. The chief administrative officer (CAO) and the village foreman. Both staff members are paid a monthly wage.	The county does not anticipate keeping village staff members beyond a transition period. Staff members would receive a severance package equivalent to that provided to provincial government employees. The county maintains a "hamlet crew" responsible for providing public works service in existing hamlets. The county is considering increasing the budget for the crew. The hamlet crew would provide service in Hussar if it were to dissolve.

Services and community issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Village office	The village owns and operates the municipal office building. A portion of the space is rented to the hairdresser. There is no lease in place; however, the hairdresser does provide a percentage of monthly profits to the village for use of the space. Heated storage space is available at the village office for the community water truck and equipment for the emergency first responders.	The county will not maintain a municipal office in Hussar, but will continue to make the current space available for community use. The county is prepared to offer a long-term lease to the hairdresser. The county would keep the community water truck where it is. The emergency first responders would be able to keep their equipment in this space, and the county is willing to discuss the use of the existing village office with them.
Information	Village residents can contact the village office to get information during normal business hours between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The residents can also contact a councillor, the CAO, or foreman at home to get information.	County residents can contact the county office, just east of Strathmore, during regular business hours. The county office is open between 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Residents may also contact a councillor to get information.
Payment of tax and utility bills	Tax and utility bills can be paid in person at the village office or by mail by: • cheque; or • cash.	Tax and utility bills can be paid in person at the county office by: • cheque; • cash; • charge; or • debit. Bills may also be paid at banks and on the Internet. The county plans to enter into an agreement to allow for bills to be paid at the Chinook Credit Union in Hussar.
Tax due dates and penalties	Taxes are due on or before October 31. A 9 percent penalty is applied on November 1. An additional 9 percent penalty is applied on January 1 on any unpaid balance.	Taxes are due on or before June 30. A 9 percent penalty is applied on any unpaid balance July 1. An additional 9 percent penalty is applied on any unpaid balance on January 1.

Services and community issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Village assets	The village has cash and other assets including land, buildings, equipment, and supplies.	Hussar's assets would transfer to the county at the time of dissolution. The Order in Council dissolving the village would contain a provision that the county must place surplus cash (assets minus liabilities) in a separate reserve. The county must then use those funds to benefit Hussar.
Village debt	The village's long-term debt for the water system includes: • a $110,000 debenture taken in 2003 and due to be paid out in 2023. This debenture was authorized by council to build a new water storage reservoir and add a new well to the system. The total cost of the project is $583,000. The village is receiving a grant of $423,000 from Alberta Transportation to help pay for this project. The village used $50,000 of capital reserve to fund this project, and intends to pay for the remaining cost of the project with this debenture. Council has authorized that the annual payments of $9,300 on this debenture be paid from the general tax base.	Hussar's debt is a liability and would transfer to the county at the time of dissolution. Payments on any new long-term debt for the Hussar's utility system would come from one or a combination of: • user fees/utility rates; • a special tax on all village properties; • frontage tax on specific properties; or • reserves. In appendices 1, 2, and 3 at the end of this study, it has been assumed that the county would levy 1.331 mills from the general tax base in Hussar in order to cover the annual payment on the existing water system debenture.
Grants	The village is eligible for various grants such as: • Municipal Sponsorship; • Regional Partnership Initiative; • Street Improvement Project; • Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership; and • Canada-Alberta Partnership Program. In addition to grants provided to the village, the village has sponsored grant applications for various community	The county is eligible for various grants such as: • Municipal Sponsorship Program; • Regional Partnership Initiative; • Street Improvement Program; • Alberta Municipal Water/Wastewater Partnership; and • Canada Alberta Partnership Program. The county council applies for grants based on county priorities.

Services and community issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
	groups. The village council applies for grants based on village priorities.	The difference is that after dissolution, grants for Hussar have to be considered along with the needs of the rest of the county. Hussar's priorities may not always be county priorities. The county will sponsor community groups interested in applying for grants. The county is able to assist these groups to complete applications if necessary.
Police	The RCMP detachment in Bassano provides police services to the village.	The RCMP detachment in Bassano would continue to provide police services in Hussar. In addition, the county has two special constables, who enforce provincial statutes relating to traffic. The constables provide coverage throughout the county. The county is in the process of hiring a third constable.
Fire	The Hussar Rural Fire Association (HRFA), a volunteer fire service, provides fire suppression in the village and in the surrounding county. The HRFA houses its equipment in the county shop within the village. The HRFA has an old pumper truck, a new tanker truck, and has recently acquired a new pumper truck. The cost of responding to residential fires within the village is covered by general taxation. The HRFA bills for the cost of responding to motor vehicle accidents and other highway-related incidents. Any revenue from these billings goes to the HRFA. The village sets an annual requisition for the HRFA. The requisition for 2003 was $4600. A total of $1000 is annually allocated for capital expenses, and the remainder is used to cover 50 percent of the heat and light bills at the county shop. The county covers the other 50 percent.	The county would ensure that the current service level provided by the HRFA would remain unaffected by dissolution. The county collects 0.3 mills for fire protection from its residents. The portion of this amount that would be collected from Hussar and district would be provided directly to the HRFA. No funding shortfall is expected. The HRFA's capital reserve will not be affected by dissolution.

Services and community issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
	Any money remaining at the end of the year is transferred to the HRFA's operating budget. The village levies a separate tax rate to fund the requisition.	
Ambulance	The village is a member of Wheatland and District Emergency Medical Services Association (WADEMSA). Ambulance service in the village is provided through the WADEMSA. The WADEMSA requisitions funds from members on an annual basis. The 2003 requisition (a per capita requisition) for the village was $5430. The village levies a separate tax rate of 0.77 mills to fund the annual requisition.	The county is a member of the WADEMSA. The level of service would not change. The county levies a separate tax rate of 0.157 mills to fund the annual requisition.
911 service	The WADEMSA provides 911 dispatch services for the village.	The WADEMSA would continue to provide 911 dispatch services for Hussar.
Disaster services	The village has a disaster services plan.	The county has a disaster services plan and would incorporate Hussar into its plan.
Emergency first response team	The Hussar emergency first response team (team) is alerted whenever the WADEMSA 911 service receives a call within the Hussar fire service region. First responders are trained to provide emergency care until ambulance personnel can respond. The team is made up of volunteers from the community. The village provides volunteer insurance for all first responders and pays the cost of the coverage. The village and the county jointly share training costs. The village maintains a separate account for the team. The village has signing authority on this account. The village would like the team to open its own account and would like to transfer the balance of the present account to the team.	The county supports the idea of emergency first response teams and is involved in other teams across the county. The county would continue to provide insurance coverage to the team and will charge that cost back to the team as it does with other teams in the county. The county would continue to provide for training for the team as necessary. The trust account would be transferred to the county at the time of dissolution. The county would either continue the present arrangement or turn the account over to the team.

Services and community issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Village bylaws	The village has many bylaws in place to regulate and administer the village including such things as: • noise restriction; • unsightly premises/minimum standards; and • animal control.	Existing village bylaws will still be in force in Hussar until the county council repeals or amends them.
Bylaw enforcement	The village administrator is responsible for bylaw enforcement. Bylaw enforcement is done on a complaint basis. The village pays for an animal control officer to provide service in the village when necessary.	The county has two special constables to do bylaw enforcement. They try to get to all areas of the county about once a week and will respond to complaints from residents. The county has a part-time animal control officer that it shares with the Town of Strathmore. The officer is available to respond to calls throughout the county.
Road maintenance	The village roadways are a mix of asphalt and gravel. The village provides general maintenance on the roadways and reviews roadway condition on an annual basis. Major repairs or construction are contracted out as required. The village traditionally funds the non-grant portions of roadway project costs through the general tax levy. The village is responsible for snow removal on roadways and in alleys in the winter.	If Hussar were to dissolve, the county would review the condition of all roads and develop a plan for how to deal with them. The county does its own construction and maintenance on an as-needed basis. The county's designated hamlet crew is responsible for both summer and winter maintenance within hamlets. The county's first priority for snow removal is school bus routes. Access to Hussar's school will be a primary priority when planning snow removal. The hamlet crew will remove snow from back alleys after all other priorities have been met.
Sidewalk maintenance	The village provides sidewalk maintenance as required. The village traditionally funds the non-grant portions of sidewalk project costs through the general tax base. In the winter, residents are responsible for	The county schedules repair and maintenance of sidewalks and funds them through the Hamlet Street Assistance Program. The county does not remove snow from sidewalks. Residents would continue to

Services and community issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
	removing snow and ice from sidewalks adjoining their property.	be responsible for removing snow and ice from sidewalks adjoining their property.
Grass cutting	The village provides grass cutting on village-owned property.	The county would provide grass cutting on all municipal-owned property.
Water supply and distribution	The village water supply and distribution system includes: • wells; • pumphouse; • underground piping; • fire hydrants; • treated water reservoir; and • distribution pumps. The village water supply and distribution system was originally built in 1975 and has since been upgraded. The village is planning to build a new water reservoir, and add a new well to the system in 2004. The village monitors the water system and chlorine levels on a daily basis and is available to respond to emergencies 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The village has an arrangement with the county for the county to provide a licensed operator to supervise the village water system. The village water system is properly licensed and is in compliance with the licence to operate, according to Alberta Environment.	The county would be responsible for water supply and distribution if Hussar dissolves. The county would continue to operate the system in accordance with Alberta Environment regulations. The county provides on call coverage 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The current water operator for the county does not reside in Hussar. The county has a policy that all serviced buildings should have water meters. Therefore, the county would require the installation of water meters in Hussar. The county expects that those who use the water system in Hussar will pay for the total cost of operating and maintaining the system.
Wastewater collection and treatment	The village sewer system was originally built in 1975. The village does regular maintenance on the system. The village wastewater system is properly licensed and in compliance with that licence, according to Alberta Environment.	The county will continue to operate the system in accordance with Alberta Environment regulations. The county expects those that have sewer service in Hussar to pay for the total cost of operating and maintaining the system.

Services and community issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Waste management	The village does garbage collection on a weekly basis. Garbage is picked up in the back alleys and delivered to the transfer station. The village pays 50 percent of the cost of operating the transfer station. The village is a member of the Drumheller and District Solid Waste Management Association (association). The village is requisitioned by the association for the cost of this service. The cost of this garbage collection service is paid from general revenue.	The county does not provide garbage collection to residents. Hussar residents would be responsible for taking their own garbage to the local transfer station. Residents may also hire someone to collect garbage in Hussar if they wish. The county is a member of the Drumheller and District Solid Waste Management Association.
Utility rates	Village utility rates include water and sewer. The current utility rate is $45 every two months ($22.50 per month) for both water and sewer. From 1999 to 2003, the five-year average annual operating costs for water and sewer were $25,420, while the average operating revenue was $27,636. This means that average annual operating surplus is approximately $2,216. The village does not have water meters.	The county would run the water and sewer utilities according to the user pay model used throughout the county. This means that the utility rates will reflect the total cost of providing the service. The county would require the addition of water meters at the expense of property owners. The addition of water meters will mean that there will be a cost-saving bonus for those users who reduce consumption and a cost-increase for those users who increase consumption. It is not possible to estimate how utility rates will be affected.
Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)	The village is a member of Wheatland FCSS. All Family and Community Support Services within the village are provided through this board. Both provincial grant money and municipal contributions are pooled by Wheatland FCSS in order to provide central services. Some of the services available include: • home support and care program; • family-school liaison; and • free counselling and family therapy.	The county is a member of Wheatland FCSS. There will be no change in the service level or funding for FCSS programming.

Services and community issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Boards and committees	The following are authorities, boards, and committees, to which the village appoints members: • Wheatland FCSS; • WADEMSA; • Drumheller and District Solid Waster Management Association; • Wild Rose Economic Development; • Hussar Rural Fire Association; • Wheatland Housing Management; and • Hussar Library Board.	The county has representation on all of the boards listed except for: • Wild Rose Economic Development; and • Hussar Library Board. In addition, county councillors sit on various boards and committees representing the county residents' interests. Hussar would lose separate representation on boards and committees where the appointments require elected officials. The county councillors would represent Hussar's interests along with the rest of the county residents' interests on boards or committees.
Campground	The Hussar campground is on village-owned land. There is a $5-per-night charge for camping, with a collection box for the fees on site. The village is responsible for picking up fees from the box. The village is responsible for overseeing maintenance of the campground, but much of the work is done by volunteers. The Hussar Historical Society has a spring clean-up which includes the campground.	The county does not wish to run the campground. The county would look for a community group that would be willing to be responsible for the campground in exchange for the revenue from camping.
Community hall	The Hussar Lions Club operates the village community hall. The hall and land are owned by the village and leased to the Lions Club at a cost of $1 per year. The Lions Club is responsible for maintaining the building. The village lists the Hussar Lions Club as an additional named insured, which includes host liability, and invoices them for that cost. The five-year lease is set to expire in April 2004.	The county would renew the lease for the community hall with the Lions Club. The county would provide insurance coverage to the society and would invoice them for that cost.

Services and community issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Cemetery	The Hussar Cemetery is located just east of the village on land owned by the village. The village cuts the grass at the cemetery, maintains plot records, sells plots, and arranges for the opening and closing of graves. Community volunteers assist in the general upkeep of the cemetery grounds. The village keeps all revenue from sales and "in memoriam" in a trust account for use at the cemetery. The village has signing authority on the account.	The county would maintain the cemetery records as well as the cemetery trust account. The county would look for a community group to take on the responsibility for the maintenance and management of the cemetery. The county would be willing to transfer responsibility for the trust account to that community group.
Library	The village is a member of the Marigold Library System. The Hussar Library is located in the school and serves as a joint school and community library. The library is run by a board that is appointed by village council. Every year the village pays a per capita amount to the Hussar Library and to the Marigold Library System. In 2003 the village paid $552 ($3.05 per capita) to the Hussar Library, and, $814 ($4.50 per capita) to the Marigold System. The village lists the Hussar Municipal Library as an additional named insured and invoices it for that cost.	At present, the county is not a member of the Marigold Library System. The county is committed to supporting libraries throughout its jurisdiction and would support the library in Hussar. Last year the county provided a grant of $1,500 to each of the libraries in the county (Gleichen, Rosebud, and Carseland). The county would provide insurance coverage to the library and would invoice it for that cost.
Sundowners Senior Society	The village owns the Sundowners Senior society building. The society leases the building and land from the village at the cost of $1 per year. The society is responsible for maintenance of both the building and the land. The village lists the Hussar Sundowners Seniors Club as an additional named insured, and invoices the club for that cost.	The county would continue the present lease agreement with the Sundowners Senior Society. The county would provide additional named insured coverage to the society and would invoice it for that cost.

Services and community issues	Current situation in the village	What residents can expect if the village joins the county
Curling club and arena	The arena and curling club are owned and operated by the Hussar and District Agriculture Society. The agriculture society leases the land from the village at the cost of $1 per year. The village lists the Hussar and District Agriculture Society as an additional named insured, which includes host liability, and invoices it for that cost.	The county would continue the present lease agreement with the agriculture society. The county would provide insurance coverage to the society and would invoice it for that cost.

Appendix 1

2003 residential tax rate comparison

Residential tax rate	Village 2003	County 2003
General municipal	10.874	6.553
Education	4.576	4.935
Seniors foundation	0.078	0.065
Fire association	0.523	0.300
Waste management	0.000	0.194
WADEMSA	0.777	0.157
2003 tax rate	16.828	12.204
Add:		
Special debt levy (for Hussar)		1.331
2003 comparative tax rate	16.828	13.535

Note: County tax rates include a special debt levy of 1.331 mills to cover the annual debt payment of $9,300 on the water system.

Conclusion: The 2003 county residential tax rate was 20 percent lower than the village.

2003 non-residential tax rate comparison

Non-residential tax rate	Village 2003	County 2003
General municipal	10.874	7.674
Education	8.410	6.353
Seniors foundation	0.078	0.065
Waste management	0.000	0.194
Fire association	0.523	0.300
WADEMSA	0.777	0.157
2003 tax rate	20.662	14.743
Add:		
Special debt levy (for Hussar)		1.331
2003 comparative tax rate	20.662	16.074

Note: County tax rates include a special debt levy of 1.331 mills to cover the annual debt payment of $9,300 on the water system.

Conclusion: The 2003 county non-residential tax rate was 22 percent lower than the village.

Appendix 2

2003 estimated residential municipal cost comparison

The tables consider three actual residential properties in Hussar. By applying the 2003 village and county tax rates and the required debt payment of theses properties, residents can compare the expected total municipal cost if Hussar remains a village with the expected total municipal cost if Hussar joins the county. Estimates are rounded to the nearest dollar value.

2003 estimated municipal costs if Hussar remains a village

Sample properties	Assessment	2003 tax rate	Taxes	Total municipal cost
Residential 1	$106,670	16.828	$1,795	$1,795
Residential 2	$58,070	16.828	$977	$977
Residential 3	$32,500	16.828	$547	$547

2003 estimated municipal costs if Hussar joins the county

Sample properties	Assessment	2003 tax rate	Taxes	Debt levy	Total municipal cost
Residential 1	$106,670	12.204	$1,302	$142	$1,444
Residential 2	$58,070	12.204	$709	$77	$786
Residential 3	$32,500	12.204	$397	$43	$440

2003 estimated residential municipal cost comparison summary

Sample properties	Municipal cost if Hussar remains a village	Municipal cost if Hussar joins the county	Difference $	Percentage %
Residential 1	$1,795	$1,444	-$351	-20
Residential 2	$977	$786	-$191	-20
Residential 3	$547	$440	-$107	-20

Conclusion: Using county rates, the sample properties have 20 percent lower total municipal cost than using village rates. Municipal cost includes property taxes and annual debt servicing payments.

Appendix 3

2003 estimated non-residential tax comparison

The tables consider three actual non-residential properties in Hussar. By applying the 2003 village and county tax and required debt payment rates of theses properties, residents can compare the expected total municipal cost if Hussar remains a village with the expected total municipal cost if Hussar joins the county. Estimates are rounded to the nearest dollar value.

2003 estimated non-residential tax if Hussar remains a village

Sample properties	Assessment	2003 tax rate	Taxes	Total municipal cost
Non-residential 1	$314,800	20.662	$6,504	$6,504
Non-residential 2	$184,490	20.662	$3,812	$3,812
Non-residential 3	$80,380	20.662	$1,661	$1,661

2003 estimated non-residential tax if Hussar joins the county

Sample properties	Assessment	2003 tax rate	Taxes	Debt levy	Total municipal cost
Non-residential 1	$314,800	14.743	$4,641	$419	$5,060
Non-residential 2	$184,490	14.743	$2,720	$246	$2,965
Non-residential 3	$80,380	14.743	$1,185	$107	$1,292

2003 estimated non-residential municipal cost comparison summary

Sample properties	Municipal cost if Hussar remains a village	Municipal cost if Hussar joins the county	Difference $	Percentage %
Non-residential 1	$6,504	$5,060	-$1,444	-22
Non-residential 2	$3,812	$2,966	-$846	-22
Non-residential 3	$1,661	$1,292	-$369	-22

Conclusion: Using county rates, the sample properties have 22 percent lower total municipal cost than using village rates. Municipal cost includes property taxes and annual debt servicing payments.

What is the next step?

Alberta Municipal Affairs will conduct a public meeting to present the dissolution study and respond to residents' questions on the study and dissolution.

A vote on the question (including an advance vote) of dissolution will be held.

Alberta Municipal Affairs will administer the vote in accordance with the Local Authorities Election Act.

Who can vote?

To be eligible to vote you must be:

- at least 18 years of age;
- a Canadian citizen
- a resident of Alberta for the 6 months immediately preceding the vote; and
- a resident of the Village of Hussar on the day of the vote.

What does it mean to be a resident of the Village of Hussar on the day of the vote?

The Local Authorities Election Act states the rules of residence in section 48 (1) as:

For the purposes of this Act, the place of residence is governed by the following rules:

(a) a person may have only one residence for the purposes of this Act;

(b) the residence of a person is the place where the person lives and sleeps and to which, when the person is absent, intends to return;

(c) a person does not lose the person's residence by leaving the person's home for a temporary purpose;

(d) subject to clause (e), a student who

i. attends an educational institution within or outside Alberta,

ii. temporarily rents accommodation for the purpose of attending and educational institution, and

iii. has family members who are resident in Alberta and with whom the student ordinarily resides when not attending an educational institution

is deemed to reside with those family members;

(e) if a person leaves the area with the intention of making the person's residence elsewhere, the person loses the person's residence within the area.

What happens after the vote?

The results of the vote, and the information in the study are provided to the Minister to help the Minister determine whether to recommend to the provincial Cabinet that the Village of Hussar should dissolve and join Wheatland County.

What happens if the Minister recommends dissolution?

If the Minister recommends dissolution to the provincial Cabinet and it agrees, an Order in Council is passed that dissolves the village into the county. The village council and administration would then work with the county to wind up the village's affairs.

What will happen if the Minister determines that the village should not dissolve?

The village will continue to provide services to residents and the county will continue to work with the village.

Who can I contact if I need more information?

Call Terry Broome or Mark Cooper toll-free at Alberta Municipal Affairs by dialling 310-0000 and then 427-2225.